

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-36 are pending.

Claims 1-10, 13-17 and 19 have been allowed.

Claims 20, 22, 24, 27, 32 and 34 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner argues that in claims 20, 22, 24, 27, 32 and 34 it is not clear what information is searched during the “searching means for searching for information based on said speech signal.” In addition, the Examiner states that it is not clear why the portable terminal sends text communication to the center, but the center searches speech communication. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claims as amended make it clear that information is searched **based on the** speech signal. The claims do not state that “the center searches speech communication.” In addition, the claims do not state that the portable terminal sends text communications to the center.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 18 and 20-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Appelt et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0078766). Applicant traverses these rejections because the references fail to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. The Examiner concedes that Chen fails to disclose execution of an information search using text communication with the center. However, the Examiner argues that Appelt teaches a speech recognition engine adapted to convert user speech to the natural language query

and a text-to-speech engine adapted to convert the result of the search to speech. See paragraphs 0014 and 0097.

The Examiner then argues that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Appelt text to speech searching methods with Chen's existing searching method in order to allow Chen to use the speech communication to do a text search and therefore reduce system resources by only using one communication.

Applicant submits that based on the claimed invention, neither Chen nor Appelt disclose or suggest:

Claim 12:

performing speech communication during execution of packet communication for an information search

Claim 18:

performing speech communication with the terminal using a speech communication function, while the terminal is performing an information search

Claim 20:

sending a speech signal to said center by said speech communication, during execution of an information search

Claim 22:

searching means for searching for information based on said speech signal while the portable terminal is executing an information search using said text communication with said center;

Claim 24:

sending means for sending a speech signal to the center by said speech communication,
during execution of an information search using said text communication with the center,

Claim 27:

sending a speech signal from the portable terminal to the center by speech
communication while the portable terminal is executing an information search using the text
communication with the center;

Claim 32:

searching for information based on the speech signal while the portable terminal is
executing an information search using the text communication with the center; and

Claim 34:

sending a speech signal to the center by speech communication, during execution of an
information search using the text communication with the center,

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed
to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the
Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is
kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 09/771,880

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl J. Pellegrini
Registration No. 40,766

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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